



# National Park Service Centennial Challenge

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce the first Centennial Challenge projects and programs, made possible by a \$24.6 million appropriation from Congress and matching funds committed by partners across the country. Legislation is required to create an annual, mandatory \$100 million matching fund to leverage private donations to continue these efforts to improve parks and serve all Americans, especially our nation's youth. Together we can ensure a bright future for our people and their national parks.



**The National Park Service Centennial Initiative is a 10-year effort to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment, by the agency's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.**

## 2008 at a Glance

- **\$51,534,294 total investment**
- **38 states plus the District of Columbia**
- **76 parks benefiting**
- **130 partners**
- **52.3% of total investment is partner funded**

## Education

The National Park Service fosters exceptional learning opportunities that connect people to parks.

Partnerships with educators will expand curriculum-based programs and opportunities for hands-on learning in national parks. Parks will expand Junior Ranger programs and increase outreach to underserved students. For example:

- Junior Ranger programs will be expanded to better engage and educate our youth.
- South Florida National Parks will expand programs to 50,000 underserved children.

42 projects/programs  
25 states  
50 partners  
Benefiting 37 parks  
\$12,158,600 investment

## Professional Excellence

The National Park Service demonstrates management excellence worthy of the treasures entrusted to our care.

To reflect and serve the changing face of America, the NPS will demonstrate management and professional excellence by recruiting and training diverse employees and developing skills throughout the workforce on par with the resources we manage. For example:

- Create an Institute at the Golden Gate (CA) to advance preservation and global sustainability.
- Roundtable Development Programs will train and prepare new park superintendents.

4 projects/programs  
3 states  
4 partners  
Benefiting entire NPS  
\$475,000 investment

# Stewardship



The National Park Service leads America and the world in preserving and restoring treasured resources.

To meet the challenge of safekeeping the national parks, the NPS will fund widespread research and conservation efforts. For example:

- Volunteers will patrol, locate, and protect Kemp's ridley sea turtles and their nests at Padre Island National Seashore (TX).
- Bio- Blitzes in nine national parks will identify and catalog the wildlife and plant species that live there.

**46 projects/programs**

**32 states**

**54 partners**

**Benefiting 37 parks**

**\$24,804,944 investment**

# Environmental Leadership

**The enduring legacy of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative will be to engage new generations of Americans in the values of their national parks and ensure their care for a second century.**

The National Park Service demonstrates environmental leadership to the nation.

National parks must take responsibility to reduce environmental impacts of park operations to inspire an environmental conscience in Americans. Parks will use funding to make progress on this responsibility. For example:

- Install hybrid generators that increase efficiency and decrease maintenance at Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve (AK).
- Construct a solar array on the roof of the Ohanapecosh Maintenance/Ranger Building at Mount Rainier National Park (WA).

**4 projects/programs**

**4 states**

**6 partners**

**Benefiting 4 parks**

**\$505,000 investment**

# Recreational Experience



National parks are superior recreational destinations where visitors have fun, explore nature and history, find inspiration, and improve health and wellness.

Parks will enhance trails and promote recreational opportunities. For example:

- A bicycle/pedestrian trail will foster exploration and recreation for thousands of park visitors at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (GA).
- Completion of the Georgetown Waterfront area of Rock Creek Park will create the largest new park in the District of Columbia since 1976.

**14 projects/programs**

**13 states**

**16 partners**

**Benefiting 14 parks**

**\$13,590,750 investment**

**For more information:**  
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[www.nps.gov/2016](http://www.nps.gov/2016)